

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 04293 230845Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /076 W
-----230847Z 002685 /10

P R 230827Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4066
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4293

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT KS
SUBJ: KNCC RALLY AGAINST WITHDRAWAL OF US TROOPS

1. KNCC SPONSORED RALLY MAY 22 AT SEOUL'S SAEMUNAN CHURCH TO PROTEST WITHDRAWAL OF US GROUND FORCES. ANGLICAN BISHOP PAUL LEE PRESIDED BUT KEY SPEECH WAS DELIVERED BY PRESBYTERIAN MINISTER REV. KIM CHONG-TAE. ABOUT 500 PERSONS ATTENDED.

2. REV. KIM REVIEWED STANDARD ARGUMENTS FOR CONTINUED PRESENCE OF US GROUND FORCES - ESPECIALLY AS SIGN OF US COMMITMENT. WHEN HE ADDRESSED KOREA'S DISADVANTAGEOUS STRATEGIC POSITION, HE MENTIONED IN PASSING THAT HE AGREED WITH VIEW RECENTLY EXPRESSED BY GEN. SINGLAUB THAT WITHDRAWAL COULD INVITE NORTH KOREAN ATTACK. MEETING ENDED AFTER ONE HOUR AND FIFTEEN MINUTES, AND WAS CONDUCTED IN QUIET, ORDERLY FASHION. AFTER MEETING ADJOURNED, ONE MAN FROM AUDIENCE SHOUTED QUESTION AT BISHOP LEE, DEMANDING TO KNOW WHAT KNCC WAS DOING TO PREVENT ANTI-KOREAN ELEMENTS IN US FROM USING HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AS PRETEXT TO HASTEN US TROOP WITHDRAWAL. QUESTION WAS IGNORED AS PRINCIPAL SPEAKERS AND MOST OF AUDIENCE WER ALREADY ENROUTE TO EXITS.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOME FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS WHO
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COVERED RALLY BILLED EVENT AS DEMONSTRATION IN SUPPORT OF GENERAL SINGLAUB. HOWEVER, KNCC HAD PLANNED MAY RALLY LONG BEFORE SINGLAUB INCIDENT AND EVEN BEFORE HABIB TRIP WAS ANNOUNCED. IN ADDITION, MAIN SPEAKER REFERRED ONLY BRIEFLY TO SINGLAUB STATEMENT.

4. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KOREA PLANS SIMILAR RALLY MAY 25.

IN THIS CASE, CHURCH OFFICIALS HAVE SCHEDULED EVENT SPECIFICALLY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF UNDERSECRETARY'S PLANNED VISIT.

5. OFFICIALS AT BOTH KNCC AND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KOREA HAVE INDICATED TO EMBOFF THAT ROKG HAS TRIED TO DISSUADE THEM FROM HOLDING THESE RALLIES.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, TROOP DEPLOYMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: PINT, PINS, MPOL, KS, US, KNCC
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